

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1013
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Corporal Josh Samuels of the United
States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Military today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer is Corporal Josh Samuels of the United States Marine Corps, who recently rescued the downed pilot of an F/A-18 aircraft; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Angel One Marine Rescue Helicopter crew stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, South Carolina, Corporal Samuels was on a routine training mission off the coast of South Carolina on March 24 when his crew received a call that a pilot was in distress; and

WHEREAS, the crew's helicopter traveled forty miles from the coastline to find the pilot in the ocean, and Corporal Samuels jumped from the hovering helicopter and swam one hundred yards to the pilot's raft; and

WHEREAS, after checking the pilot's condition and making sure that he was free of the lines, he signaled the aircraft and helped the grateful pilot to the safety of the rescue helicopter; and

WHEREAS, in less than five minutes, the gallant corporal had completed his first rescue as a trained Marine rescue swimmer; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Gallatin High School, Corporal Samuels enlisted in the Marines after attending the University of Tennessee at Martin for a short time; he first trained as

an aviation support electrician and continues to use those skills in addition to serving as a rescue swimmer; and

WHEREAS, a Marine for five years, he has been designated as a rescue swimmer for fourteen months and is considering the pursuit of further training to become a helicopter pilot; and

WHEREAS, this brave patriot has quickly developed a reputation for excellence and earned the respect and admiration of his peers and superior officers for the unsurpassed quality of his professionalism and courageous service; and

WHEREAS, Josh Samuels follows in a proud family tradition in the Marine Corps; his father, Don Samuels, served for nine years in the Corps, until he was wounded in Vietnam and returned home to work for the Disabled Veterans of America; since 1989, he has worked for the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs and is now an Assistant Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Samuels's older brother, Don Samuels, Jr., is a Master Sergeant in the Corps and a veteran of Desert Storm, and his two sisters, Tony Wright and Chris Kelly, are married to Marines; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean has established an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in military life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize this exceptional Marine and thank him for serving as an inspiration to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Corporal Josh Samuels for his laudable service to this State and our Nation in the United States Marine Corps, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his limitless courage, and his stalwart commitment to the defense of his Nation and the protection of his brothers and sisters in arms as a Marine Rescue Swimmer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

